

Appl. No.: 10/767,471
Atty. Docket No.: CL1505ORD

REMARKS

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Status of the claims

By entry of the above amendment, claims 36, 40, 43-44, 46, 50, 53-56, 60, and 63-65 are hereby amended merely for clarity, consistency of language, and to maintain proper antecedent basis (claims 46 and 56 are also amended to specify a homozygous C/C genotype, as discussed below in response to the maintained rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, scope of enablement), and claims 66-73 are added. As such, claims 36, 39-46, 49-56, and 59-67 are currently pending, as indicated by the above claim listing.

No new matter has been added by this amendment, and its entry is respectfully requested.

Allowable claims

The Examiner indicated that claims 36 and 39-45 are allowable.

Withdrawn objections and rejections

The Examiner has withdrawn the following objections and rejections:

- the objections to claims 27, 29, 37, 39, 47, 49, 57, and 59
- the rejection of claims 1 and 27-45 under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph
- the rejection of claims 1, 29-31, 33-36, 39-46, 49-56, and 59-65 under 35 USC §112, 1st paragraph (written description - new matter)
- the rejection of claims 1 and 27-45 under 35 USC §112, 1st paragraph (written description)
- the rejection of claims 1, 27-45, 47-48, and 57-58 under 35 USC §112, 1st paragraph (enablement)

Maintained claim rejection (claims 46, 49-56, and 59-65 only): 35 USC §112, first paragraph, scope of enablement

The Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 46, 49-56, and 59-65 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, scope of enablement. In maintaining this rejection with respect to these claims, the Examiner asserts that it is possible only to conclude that the T allele in either the T/T or C/T genotype is indicative of increased risk of RF+ RA, and C/C genotype is indicative of decreased risk of RF+ RA. The Examiner further states that, as claims thus encompass associating a T/C genotype with both an

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increased risk for developing RF+ RA and a decreased risk for developing RF+ RA, the rejection is maintained.

To expedite prosecution, claims 46 and 56 are hereby amended, without disclaimer or prejudice, to specify that a homozygous C/C genotype is indicative of a decreased risk for developing RF-positive rheumatoid arthritis.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, scope of enablement, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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Conclusions

In conclusion, in light of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants submit that the present application is fully in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned via telephone if a phone interview would expedite the prosecution of the instant patent application.

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Respectfully submitted,

JUN 23 2008

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